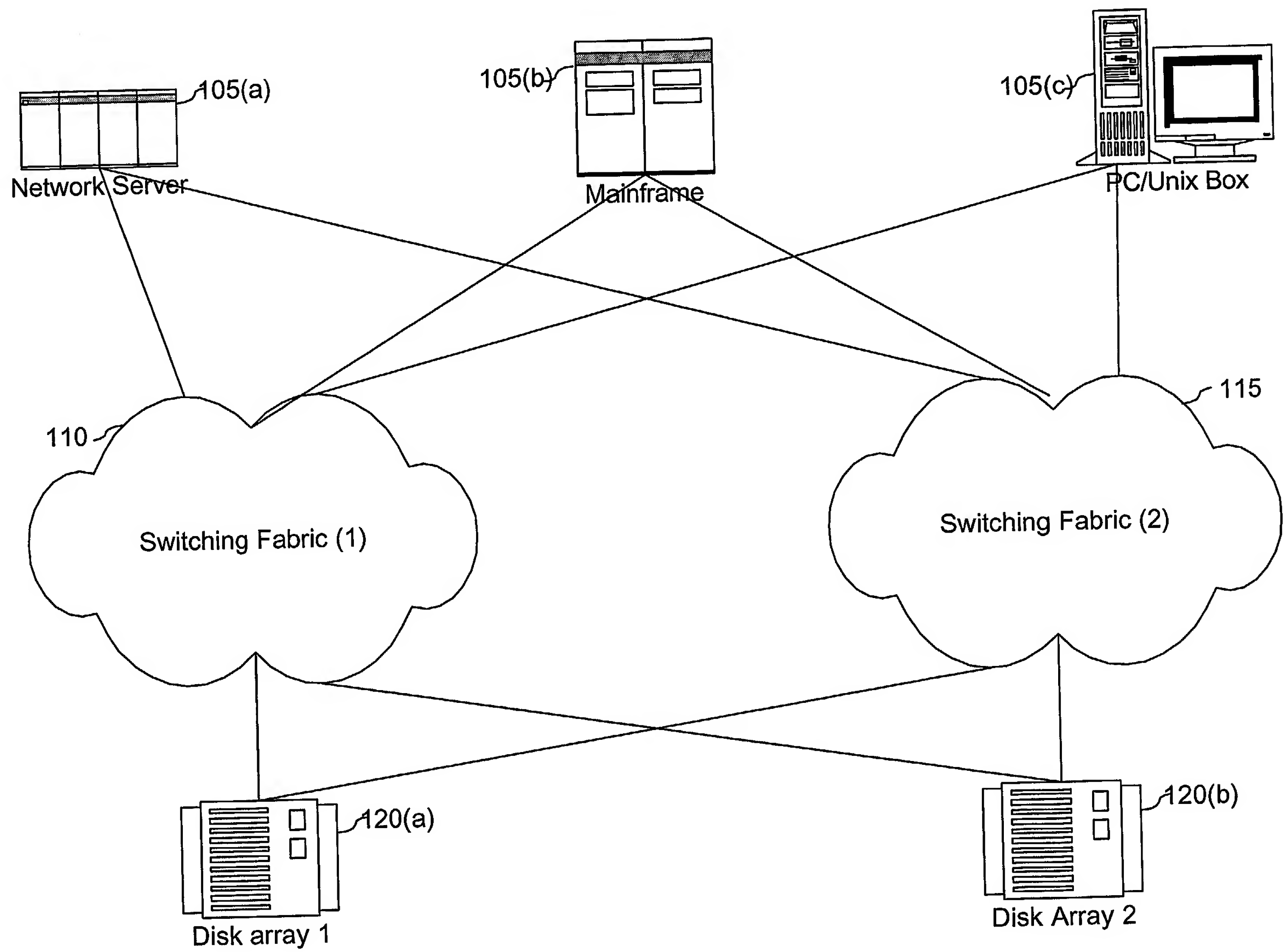

Figure 1 (Prior Art)

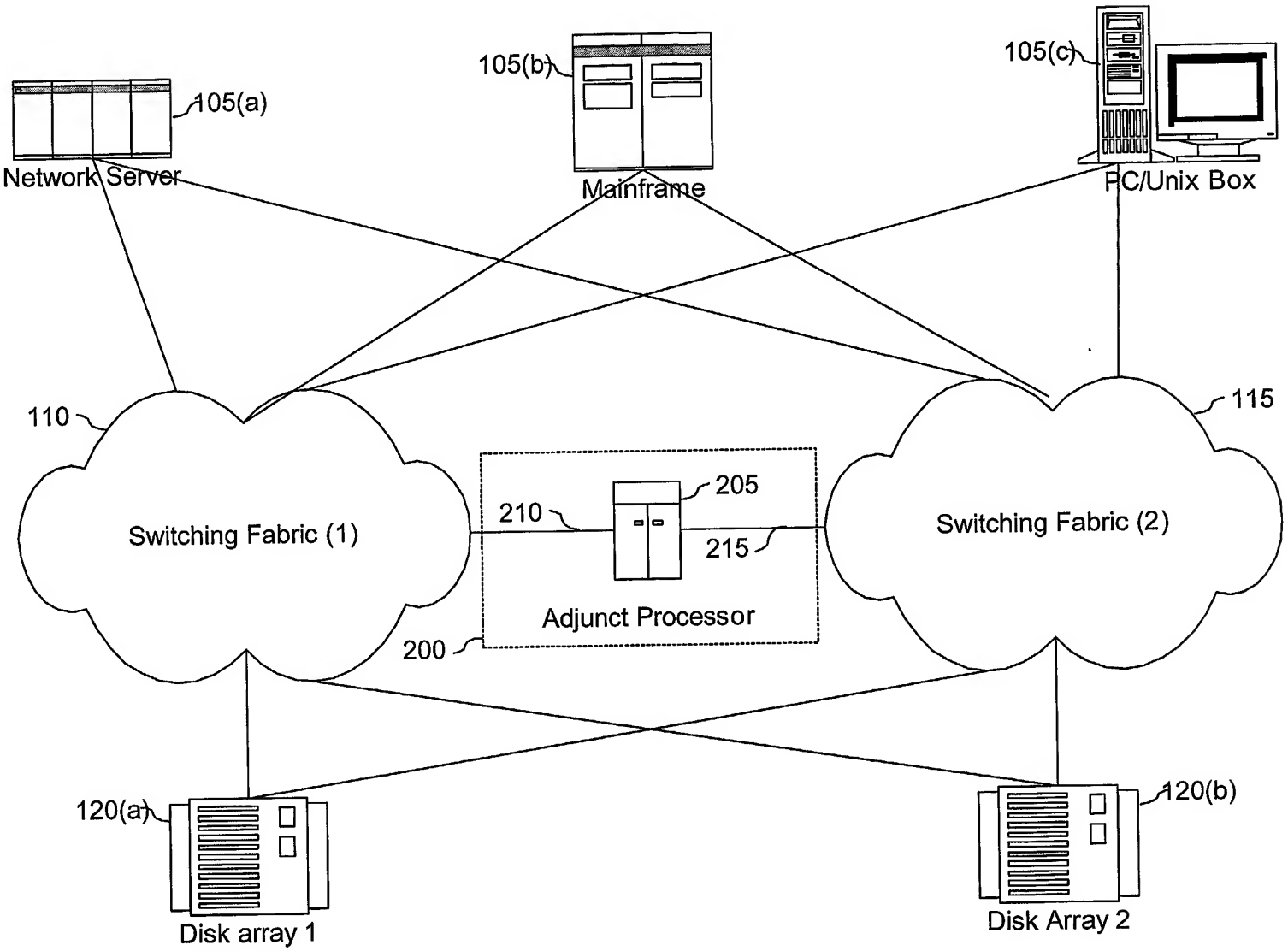
105(a)
Network Server
105(b)
Mainframe
105(c)
PC/Unix Box
110
Switching Fabric (1)
115
Switching Fabric (2)
205
210
215
Adjunct Processor
200
120(a)
Disk array 1
120(b)
Disk Array 2

Figure 2

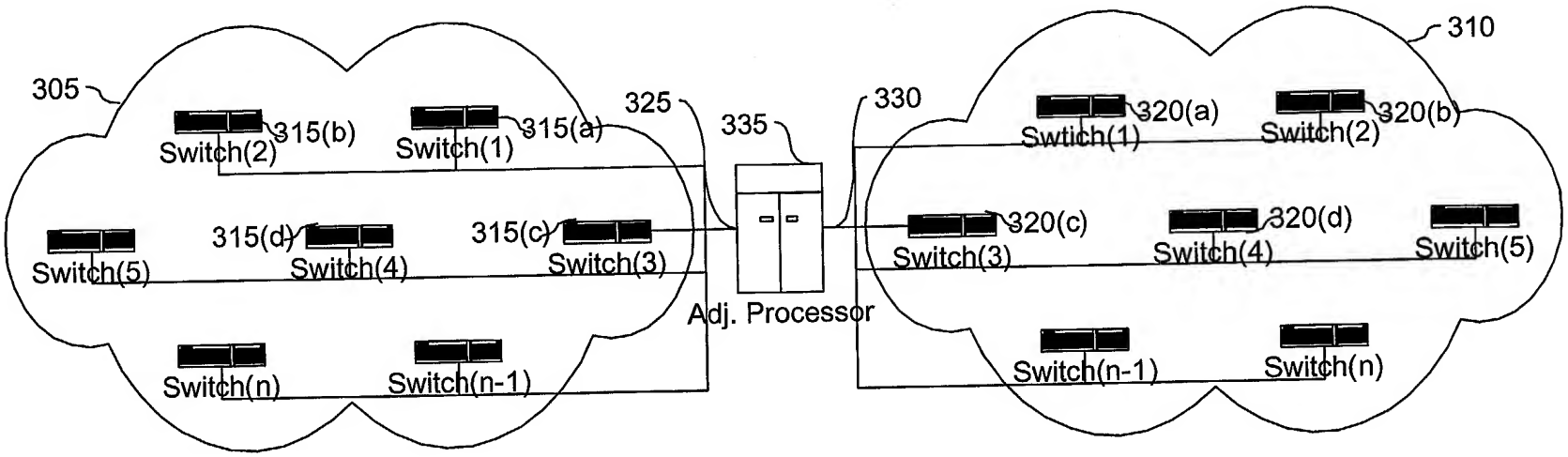

Figure 3A

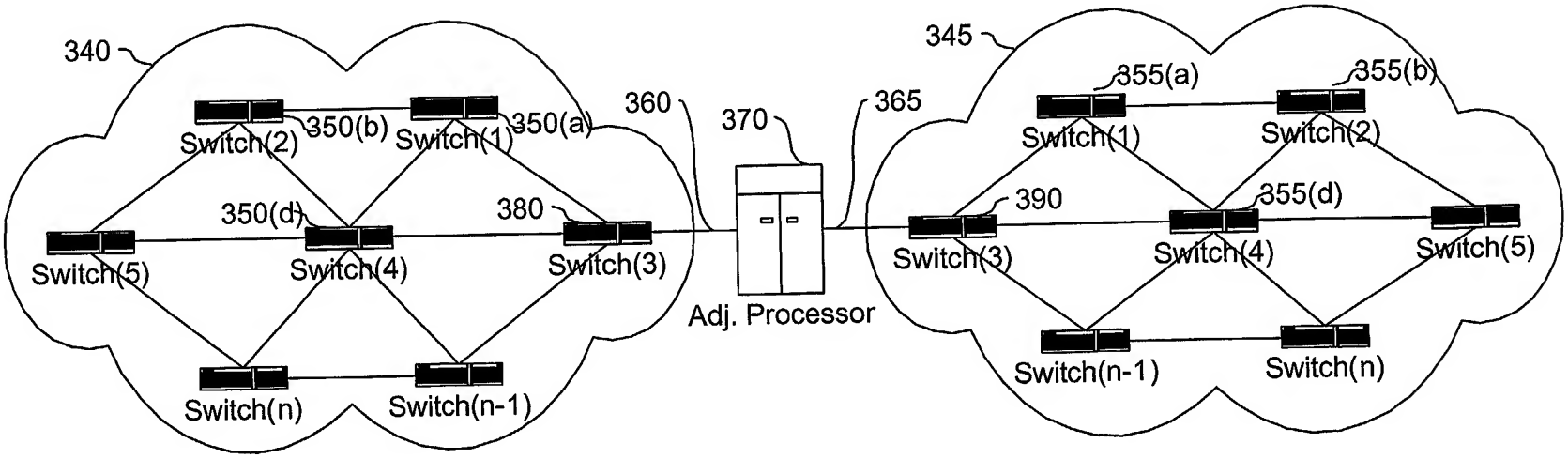

Figure 3B

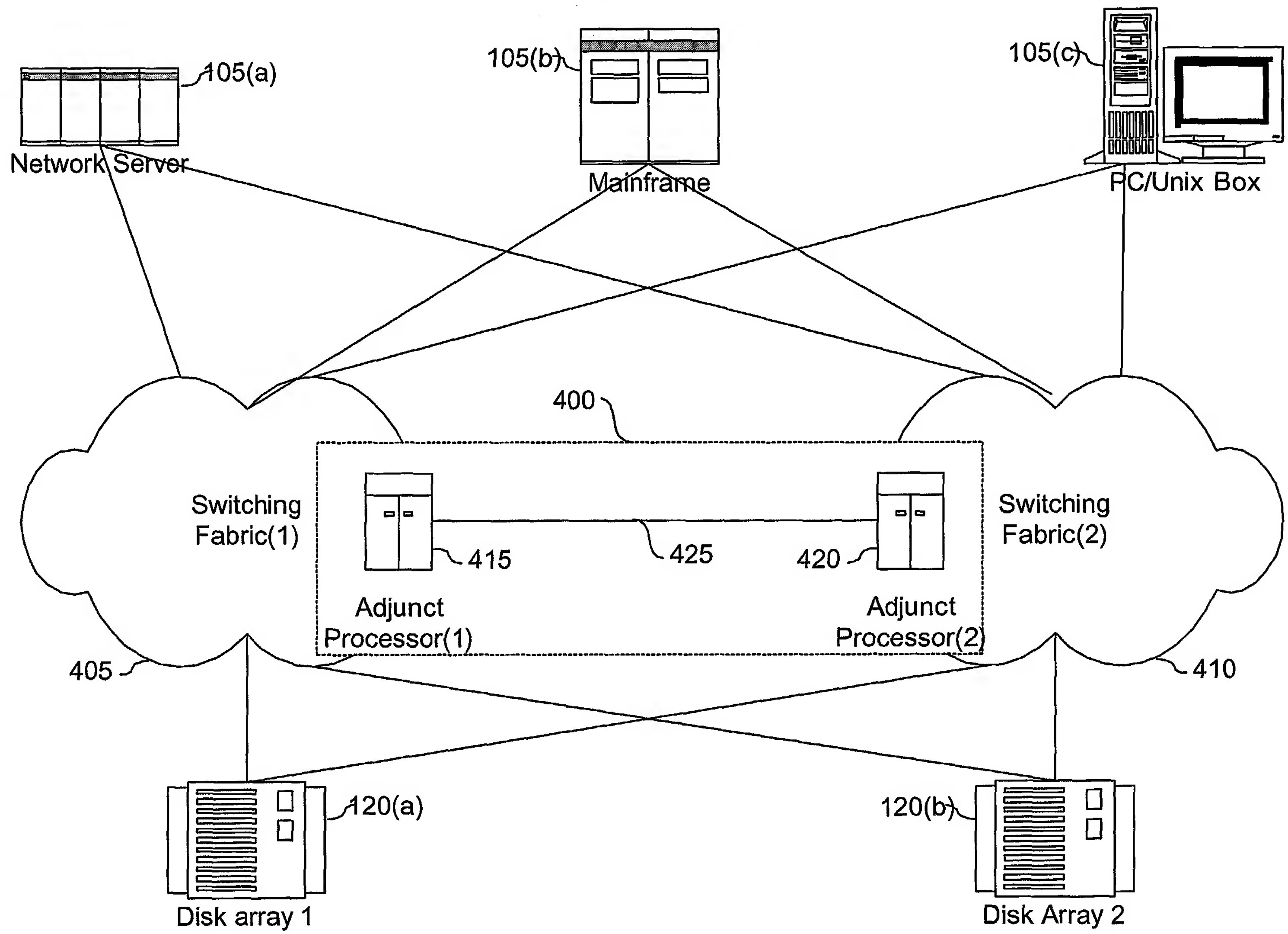
105(a)
Network Server
105(b)
Mainframe
105(c)
PC/Unix Box
400
Switching
Fabric(1)
415
425
420
Switching
Fabric(2)
Adjunct
Processor(1)
Adjunct
Processor(2)
405
410
120(a)
120(b)
Disk array 1
Disk Array 2

Figure 4

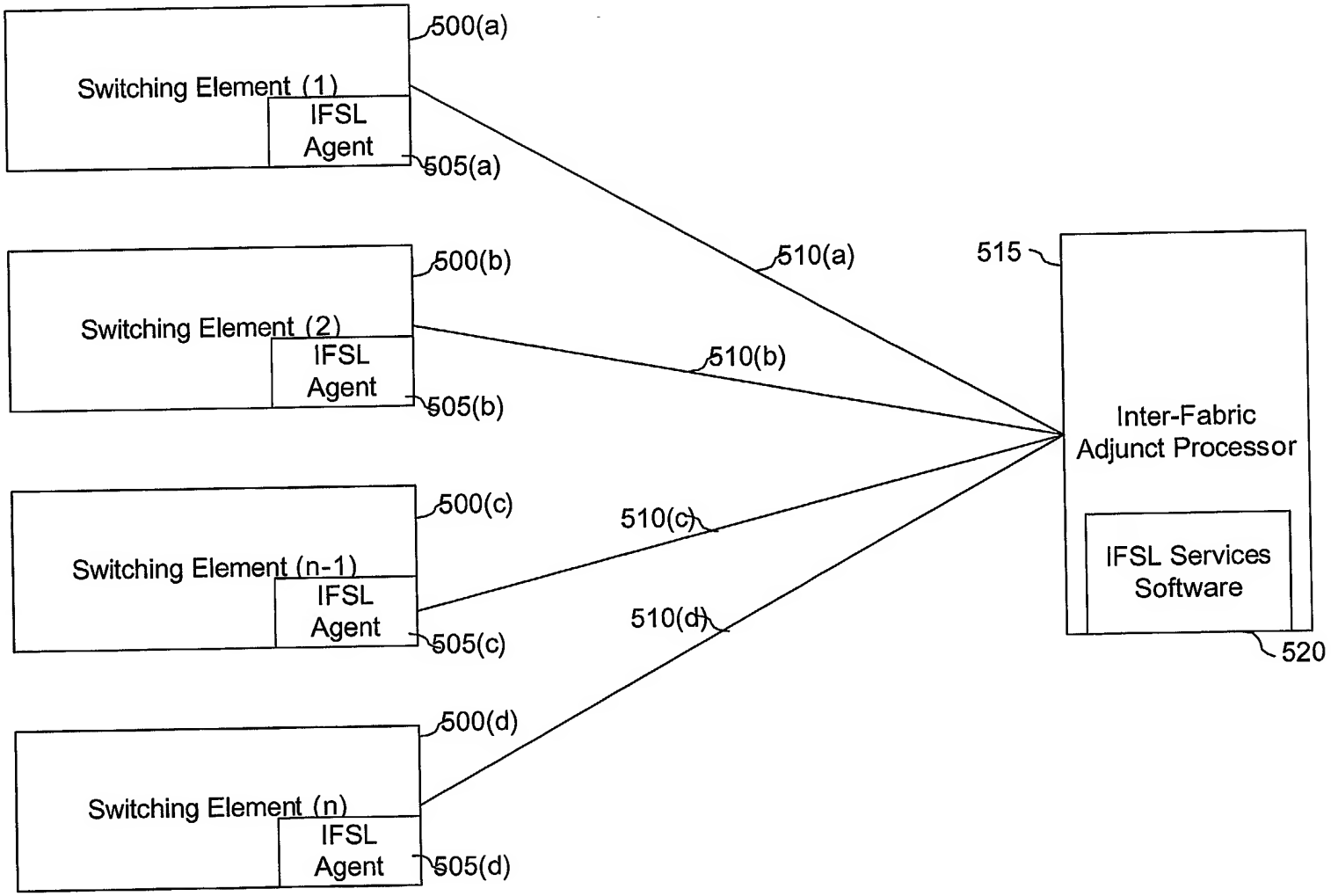
Switching Element (1)
IFSL Agent
500(a)
505(a)
Switching Element (2)
IFSL Agent
500(b)
505(b)
Switching Element (n-1)
IFSL Agent
500(c)
505(c)
Switching Element (n)
IFSL Agent
500(d)
505(d)
510(a)
510(b)
510(c)
510(d)
515
Inter-Fabric Adjunct Processor
IFSL Services Software
520

Figure 5

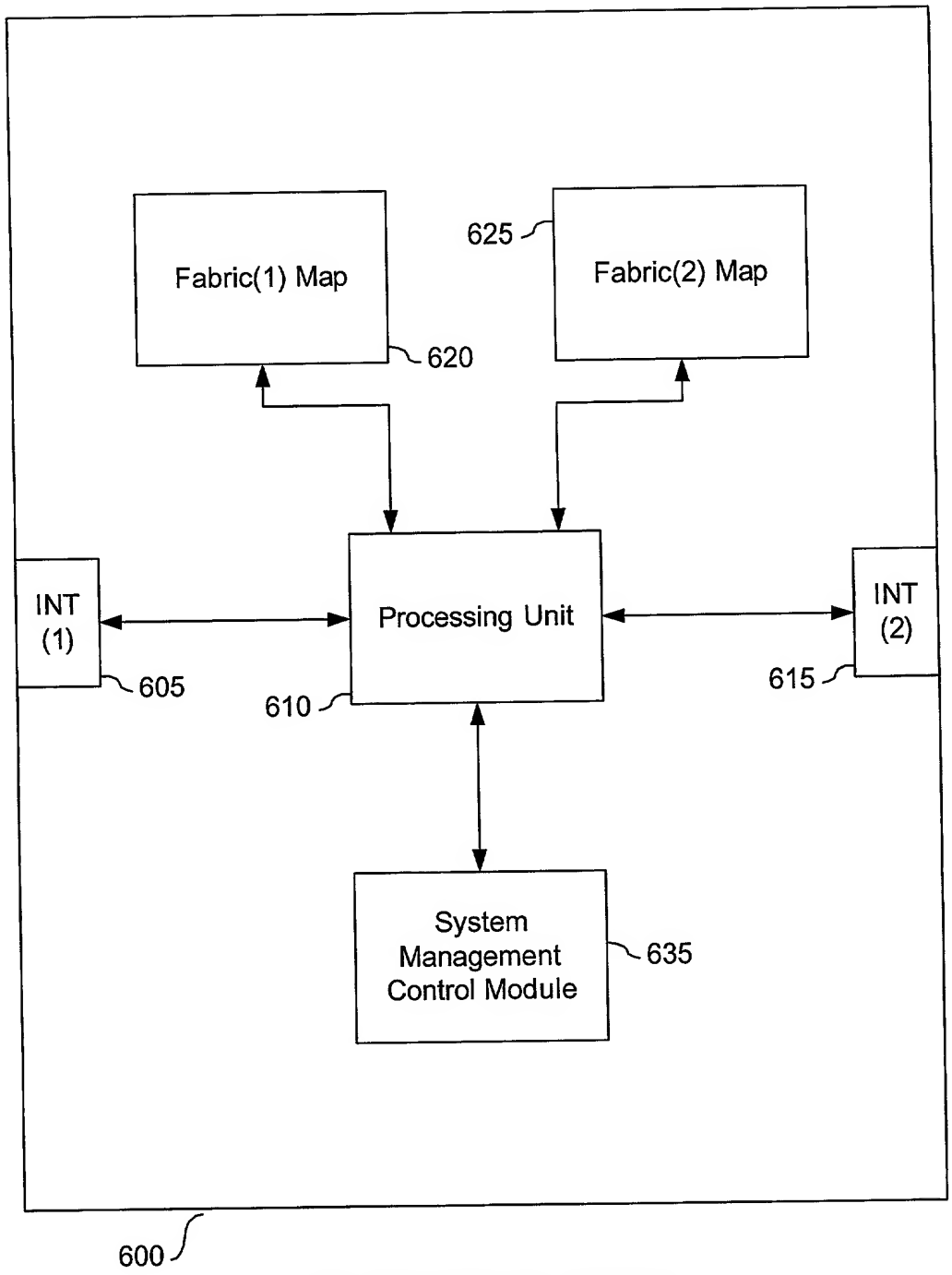
Fabric(1) Map
620
625
Fabric(2) Map
INT
(1)
605
Processing Unit
610
INT
(2)
615
System
Management
Control Module
635
600
Inter-Fabric Adjunct Processor

Figure 6

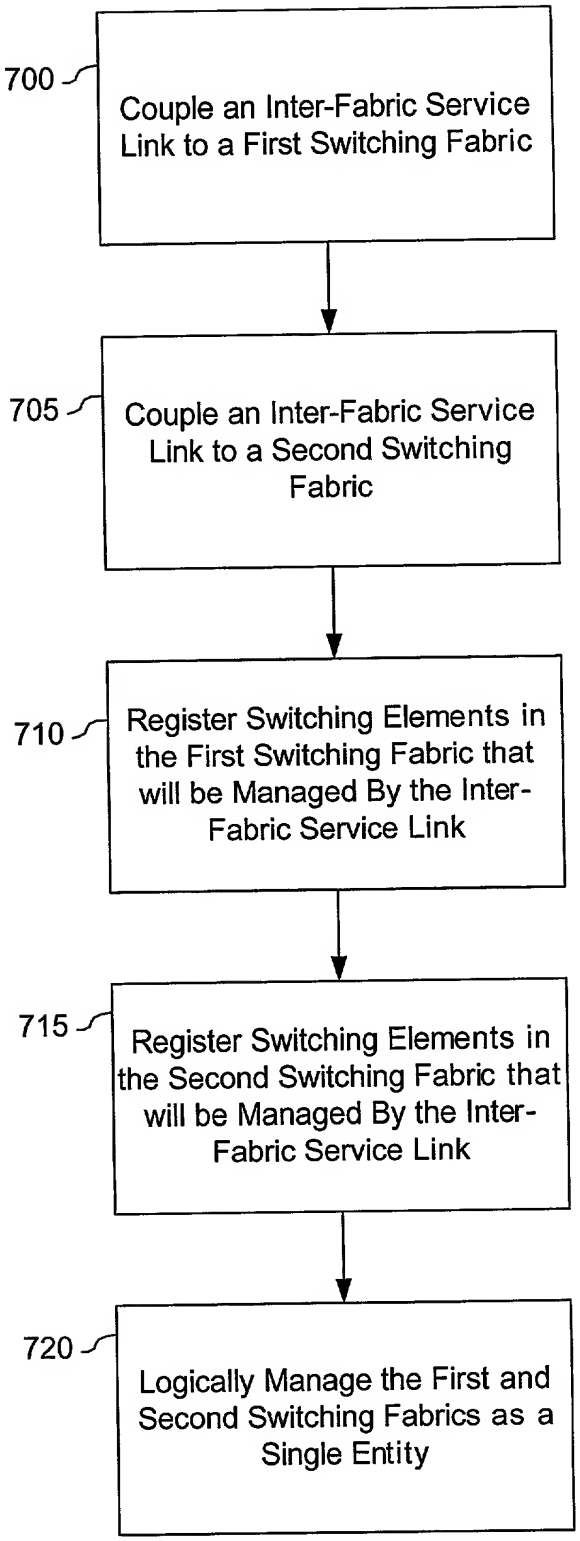
700
Couple an Inter-Fabric Service Link to a First Switching Fabric
705
Couple an Inter-Fabric Service Link to a Second Switching Fabric
710
Register Switching Elements in the First Switching Fabric that will be Managed By the Inter-Fabric Service Link
715
Register Switching Elements in the Second Switching Fabric that will be Managed By the Inter-Fabric Service Link
720
Logically Manage the First and Second Switching Fabrics as a Single Entity

Figure 7

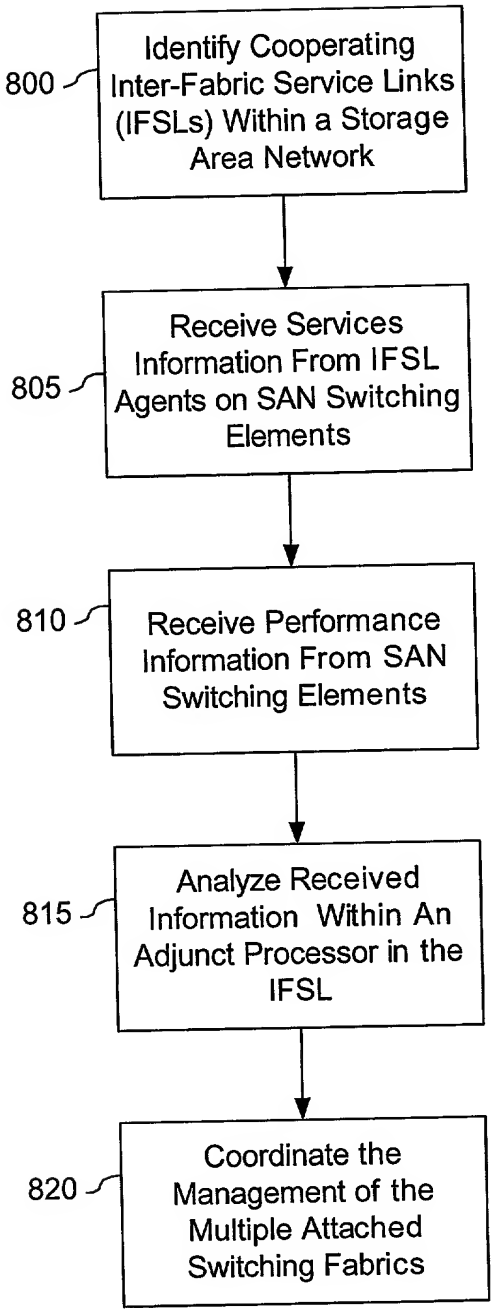
800
Identify Cooperating Inter-Fabric Service Links (IFSLs) Within a Storage Area Network
805
Receive Services Information From IFSL Agents on SAN Switching Elements
810
Receive Performance Information From SAN Switching Elements
815
Analyze Received Information Within An Adjunct Processor in the IFSL
820
Coordinate the Management of the Multiple Attached Switching Fabrics

Figure 8

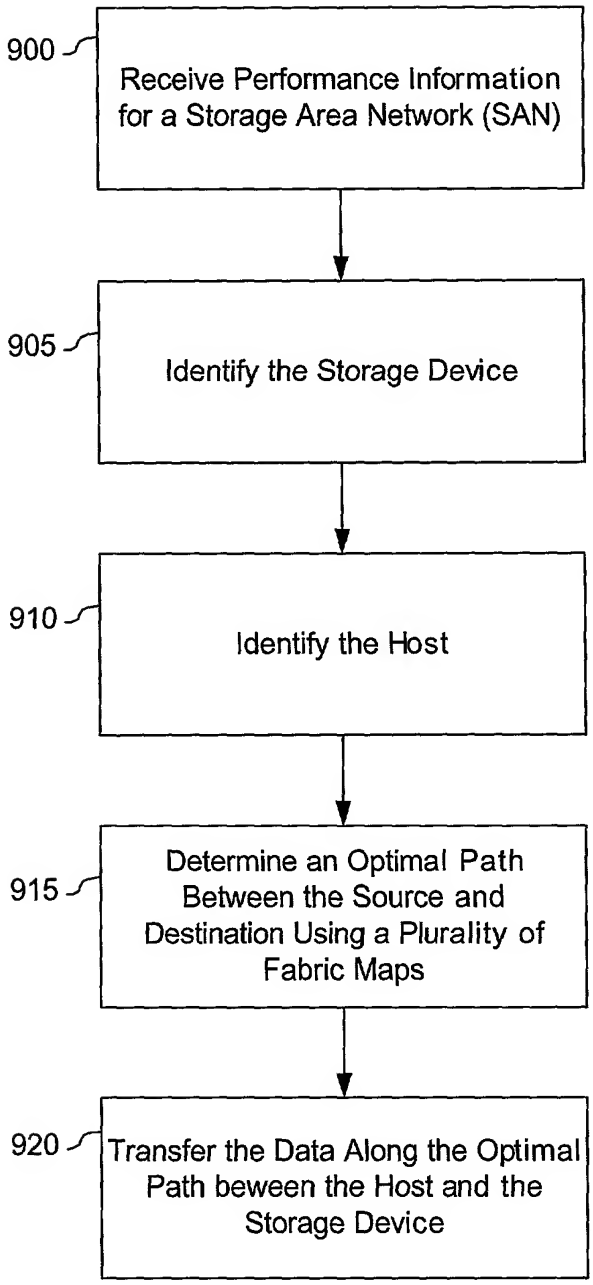
900
Receive Performance Information for a Storage Area Network (SAN)
905
Identify the Storage Device
910
Identify the Host
915
Determine an Optimal Path Between the Source and Destination Using a Plurality of Fabric Maps
920
Transfer the Data Along the Optimal Path beween the Host and the Storage Device

Figure 9